

PROVIDENCE/CRANSTON YOUTH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Renaissance Room

March 11, 2009 Providence netWORKri

**The Providence Youth Council met on Wednesday, March 11, 2009
with the following members in attendance:**

**Chris Lombardi Alexis Devine Hillary Salmons Roy Seitsinger
Joanne McGunagle Lissa Dreyer Nzinga Misgana Joanne Nanning
Paul Williams David Maher Nicole Dufresne**

Also in attendance:

**Maureen Palumbo, Mavis McGetrick, Adrianna Goode, Elaine Budish,
Gary Littlefield,
Ellen Petit**

The following members were not in attendance:

**Andrea Iannazzi Frank Santos Davy Dy Harry Potter Dennis Langley
Frank Corbishley Gina Lopes Guy Alba Mike BurK Chace Baptista
Robert Delaney Joseph DiPina Lori Norris Johan Uvin Meo
Colantonio
Sorrel Devine Alan Hochman**

Co-Chair Hillary Salmons called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and revised the order of the agenda to move the Administrator's presentation earlier so that he could attend another meeting.

After approval of the minutes (Motion: J. McGunagle, 2nd: C. Lombardi) from the February 4, 2009 Youth Council meeting, she called on Robert Ricci to discuss the policy issues before the Youth Council today.

1) Local Area Notices:

Local area policy notices are part of the WSPC Administrator's responsibilities and do not require approval by the Youth Council or the WIB, although they are presented for your information. These two items were tabled from the last Youth Council meeting due to time constraints but they went forward in the WIB packets at the February 17, 2009 meeting.

Residency Policy – The WSPC Administrator has issued a local policy (attached) that formalizes the practice that youth receiving WIA services must be residents of the Providence/Cranston workforce area. The adult system requires that residency in the local area cannot be required but allows locals to make such a restriction for youth services.

Sixth Youth Eligibility Criteria -- The WSPC Administrator has issued a local policy to define the documentation needed to verify a youth

participant as having a disability for eligibility purposes under WIA.

The policy was discussed and staff will

- Get clarification from SWIO to determine if a youth with a disability is considered a family of one for WIA income purposes**
- Work with Joanne Nanning from the Office of Rehabilitative Services to refine some of the language regarding youth with disabilities**
- Submit the refined language to the Administrator, who will reissue the policy if necessary**

2) Conflict of Interest Policy for the RFP funding process

The Youth Council Packet included the draft of a conflict of interest policy regarding our funding cycles. The purpose is to transform our due diligence practice into a formal published policy. Mr. Ricci also suggested we invite the R.I. Ethics Commission to make a presentation at an upcoming Youth Council meeting so that everyone has as much information as possible as we are committed to having a completely transparent process.

After discussion, the Youth Council voted unanimously to approve this policy (Motion: P. Williams, 2nd: C. Lombardi) and forward it to the WIB for its approval.

Hillary Salmons reported that the Advisory Committee has been

working with the Youth Center and has suggested that we provide some clerical support. The Gary and Ellen from the Youth Center reported the following activities:

- To date on the new contract we have enrolled 157 JDF youth and have (actually) 31 applications submitted to Workforce Solutions for WIA youth.**
- Three partners: RIFPA, Communities for People and the Providence Housing Authority and the slow progress cultivating WIA enrollees from them.**
- Meeting with CCAP about enrolling youth with Adolescent Self Sufficiency Program**
- We have ongoing connections with Adelaide, Feinstein, Mt Pleasant, Central, Classical, Hope, Cranston East, Cranston West High Schools for potential upcoming programs**

3) Economic Stimulus Initiatives:

Staff reported that they are working on ideas and plans in coordination with the two Mayors and city departments for the summer youth initiatives.

Youth served through this plan must meet WIA eligibility guidelines

and work readiness and work experience are minimum requirements of the federal funding. Additional local requirements are being crafted.

The technical assistance packet defining policies and procedures we are to follow is due from the federal government on March 18, 2009 and we are preparing to meet with the state on the 18th to review that guidance.

The Youth Council held a vigorous discussion about the economic stimulus funds for summer youth and agreed to continue to be as prepared as possible for when those details arrive. The state has asked the two local program managers to begin crafting an RFP that we will refine when we receive the policies.

Youth Council Chair Hillary Salmons will take an active role as she will not be applying for Recovery Act funds. She will contact advisory group members as needed and as time permits.

Once the RFP timeline is set, a Youth Council meeting will be scheduled prior to the WIB meeting on May 19, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07.